

Eileen Marum

February 24, 2016

Summary of SRPEDD Meeting

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District Board of Commissioner meeting was called to order by Chairman Jonathan Henry on February 24, 2016 at 7 p.m. at 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA.

Mr. Henry announced that Jeffrey Walker of Earlysville, Virginia, a regional planning executive from Virginia, has been appointed the new executive director of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

Mr. Walker has worked with the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Planning Commission in Virginia since 2000 and as its executive director since 2006, and he would succeed Steve Smith, who has been executive director of SRPEDD for the past 32 years. Mr. Smith retired in June and Ms. Sandy Conaty, the deputy director and comprehensive planning manager, has served in an interim capacity the past seven months.

Chairman Henry said the SRPEDD commission was impressed with Mr. Walker's "leadership and managerial skills and experience with regional planning" and his commitment to increasing the region's economic development with creative solutions.

Mr. Walker's credentials include regional planning responsibilities in a five-county area for the past decade. He's taught graduate-level classes at the University of Virginia since 2013 in local and regional planning and at the University of Mary Washington since 2010 in urban and environmental planning. He holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University in public policy and a master's from the University of Virginia School of Architecture in urban and environmental planning.

Mr. Walker's starting date is April 19th pending the commission's contract negotiations with him, Mr. Henry said.

SPREDD represents 27 Southeastern Massachusetts communities—Plainville and Seekonk in the north and west, south to Westport and Dartmouth and east to Wareham—and provides planning for the region through research, technical assistance, preparing bylaws and ordinances, programming funds in the

areas of housing, economic development, environmental issues, gaming, homeland security, transportation and South Coast Rail, technical assistance and municipal partnerships.

1. NextSun Energy will install solar modules on steel racking at 620 New Bedford Road, Rochester.

2. Shell Fish restoration project in Little Bay/Nasketucket Bay, Fairhaven.

3. Sandy Conaty reminded Commissioners of the **Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC)** Annual Conference March 19, 2016 at Holy Cross College in Worcester. An important conference topic for coastal communities will be *Prepare Now for a More Resilient Community* that will focus on the impacts of climate change ranging from more intense storms, to hotter days and increased flooding, and how communities can work collaboratively to plan, prepare for, and respond to climate challenges today and in the future; a total of seventeen topics will be presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen J. Marum
Member of the SRPEDD Board of Commissioners
Town of Marion Planning Board